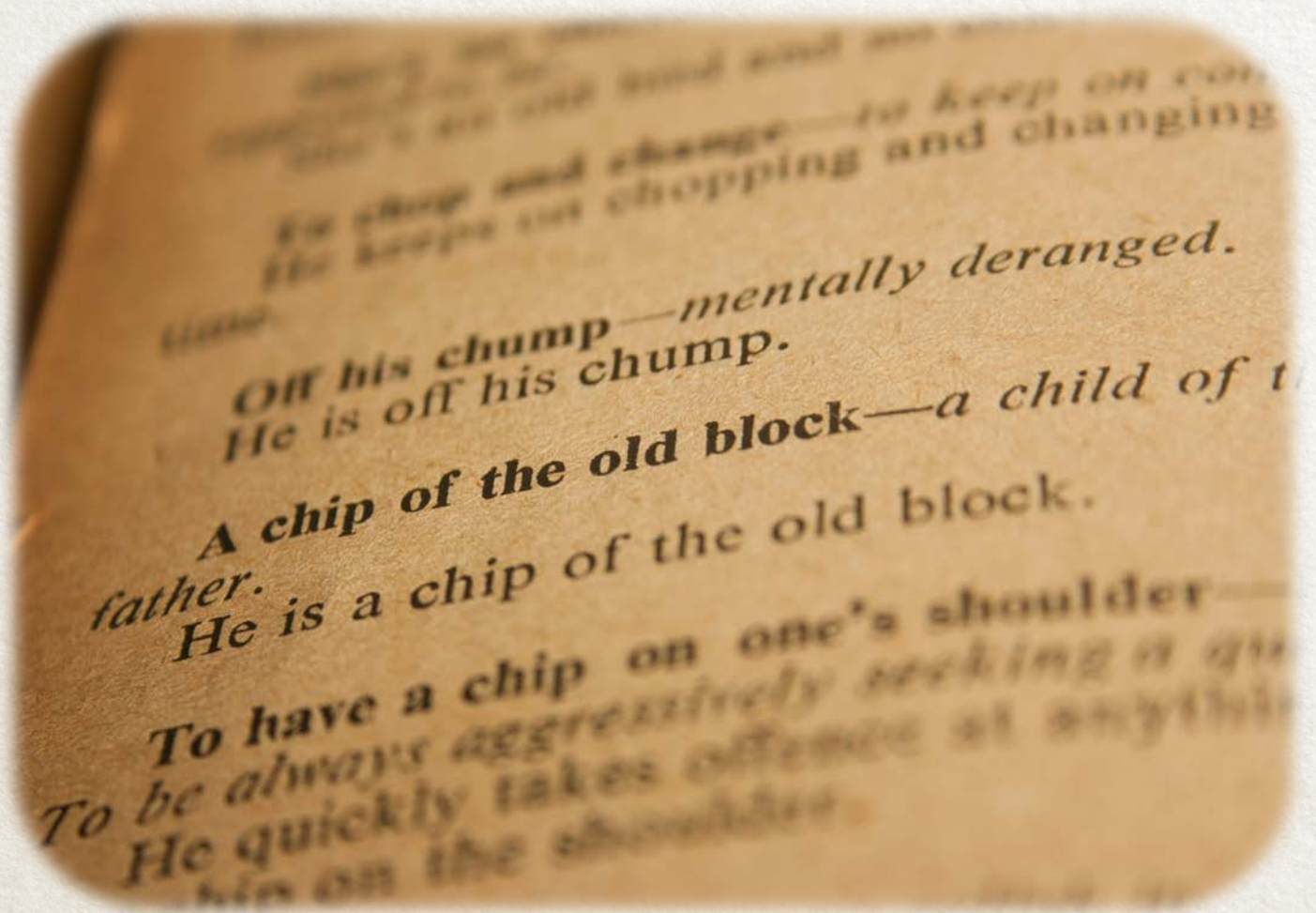


Dictionary of Words and abbreviations

(Related to Occupations, Names, City Directories and general Genealogical information)



Including Genealogical Symbols
and
Metric & Imperial Unit Conversions

Table of Content

<i>Dictionary of Words and abbreviations (Related to Occupations, Names, City Directories and general Genealogical information)</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Genealogical Symbols and their Meaning</i>	<i>Page 33</i>
<i>Metric & Imperial Unit Conversions</i>	<i>Page 34</i>

#

&c	etcetera
4to.	abbreviation of quarto, the size of a rare book made by folding an old printer's sheet of paper to form four leaves. A quarto book is typically 11 to 13 inches tall. The size can vary somewhat depending on whether the pages were trimmed.
8vo.	abbreviation of octavo, the size of a rare book made by folding an old printer's sheet of paper to form eight leaves. An octavo book is typically 8 to 9 inches tall.

A

ab	above
Ab	Abraham
Abig	Abigail
Abr	Abraham
Abra	Abraham
abt.	about
acct	accountant
act serv	active service (in the military)
Ad	Adelard
adj	adjuster
Adr	Adrian, Adrien, Adrienne
adv	advertising
advowson	(England) the right to nominate a vicar or rector to a church.
aeg	all edges gilt. Used in the description of a rare book that contains gilt (gold foil) on the edges of the pages.
affinity	in genealogy this refers to a relationship by marriage.
aft.	after
ag	agriculture
ag. lab	agricultural labourer (an abbreviation often seen on census returns).
agcy	agency
Agn	Agnes
agrl	agricultural
agt	agent
al	alley
Alb	Albert, Albina
Albt	Albert
Alc	Alice
Ale	Alethea

Alex	Alexander, Alexandre, Alexandrine
Alf	Alfred
Alfd	Alfred
almoner	a person who gives to charity or those in need.
Alph	Alphonse, Alphonsine
Am	Amanda
Amb	Ambrose
amercement	(England) a monetary penalty imposed in Medieval times. It is similar to a fine except that it was imposed by a local council that was not a formal court.
An	Anne, Anna
ancient parish	(England) a parish that dates to at least the Middle Ages.
And	Andrew, André
Andw	Andrew
Ang	Angeline, Angelique
Ani	Annie
Ant	Antoine, Antoinette
Anth	Anthony
Anthy	Anthony
ap, app	apprentice
app	apprentice (an abbreviation often seen on census returns).
appr	appraiser, apprentice
approx.	approximate(ly)
apt	apartment
Arch	Archibald
arch, archt	architect
Archd	Archibald
armiger	(abbreviation arg. or ar.) a person who bears the armor of a knight, more commonly called a squire.
Art	Arthur
art.	artillery.
Arth	Arthur, Arthemise
artificer	an inventor or craftsman.
ashery worker	a person who works in an ash pit making potash (a fertilizer).
asmlr	assembler
assce	assurance
assizes	(England) a criminal court used to try serious offences such as murder. Assizes were introduced in 1166 and finally abolished in 1972 when they were replaced by crown courts. Assize courts were sometimes called eyre courts.
assn, Assn	Association

asst	assistant
atdt, attdt, attndt	attendant
attd.	attached.
attestation	the administration of an oath or evidence given by a witness. Commonly used for military enlistment.
atty	attorney
auctnr	auctioneer
aud	auditor
Aud	Audrey
Aug	August, Auguste, Augustin, Augustine
auto	automobile
aux.	auxiliary.
av, Av	avenue

B

b, bdg, bds	boards (room and board)
b.	born (date of birth).
b.	birth
B.A.	Bachelor of Arts.
bachelor	a journeyman or craftsman who had not yet achieved master status. The title was often applied to junior members of a guild.
badger	a person who buys and sells basic commodities acting as a middleman in a transaction.
bailiff	an officer of the court who executes court orders.
Balt	Balthazar
banns	a public notice or announcement, usually in church, of an intended marriage.
bap.	baptisation
bapt.	baptised.
Barb	Barbara
barker	a person who removes bark from trees for use in tanning.
barr.	barrister (a lawyer who specializes in courtroom proceedings).
Bart	Bartholomew
Barth	Barthelemy
bawd	a woman who runs a brothel.
baxter	a baker.
bd.	buried
bde.	brigade (army records). Sometimes listed as bgde.
bdg hse	boarding house
Bea	Beatrice

beerhouse	a premise that was licensed to sell beer.
bef.	before
bel	below
Ben	Benjamin
beneficiary	someone that benefits from something. It is often the person designated to receive proceeds or benefits from a will.
Benj	Benjamin
Bern	Bernard, Bernadette
bet	between
bet.	between
bgemn	baggage man
billy piecer	a wool mill worker who collects broken yarn.
bkbndr	book binder
bkpr	bookkeeper
bkr	baker
blacksmith	a metalworker who fabricates items made out of iron and steel.
bld, bldg	building
bldr	builder
blgds.	buildings.
blk	block
blksmith	blacksmith
block maker	a maker of pulley blocks that are used to lift heavy loads.
blocked	a tree that has been marked for survey purposes.
blrmkr	boilermaker
bluejacket	an enlisted seaman.
blvd, boul	boulevard
BMD	birth, marriage, death records.
bn.	born (date of birth).
Bn.	battalion (army records).
boniface	an innkeeper.
booksel, booksl	bookseller
bootma	boot maker
bowyer	someone who makes bows for archery.
boyar	(Russia) a member of Russian nobility.
br	branch
brakeman	a railway worker who operates and maintains brakes on a train.
brazier	a metalworker who works with brass.
brbr	barber
Brid	Bridget, Bridgette

British school	the name given to 19th century schools organized by nonconformists and based on the educational principles of Joseph Lancaster. They were abolished in England by the Education Act of 1902.
brklyr	bricklayer
brkmn	brakeman
brkr	broker
brogger	a wool trader.
bros	brothers
bt	bottle
btchr	butcher
btlr	bottler
bur.	buried or date of burial.
bur.	burial
burler	a linen mill worker who removes defects from cloth.

C

C of E	Church of England.
c, cor	corner
c.	circa (approximate year).
c.s.	civil service.
ca.	circa
cadastral	a public record showing ownership of land.
cadger	a beggar.
call	the compass direction and distance that defines the perimeter of a piece of property. A property will have several calls.
canon law	law of the church.
capt	captain
Capt.	Captain. Sometimes listed as Cpt.
Car	Caroline
caretkr	caretaker
carp, carpntr	carpenter
cash, cashr	cashier
Cath	Catherine
Cathne	Catherine
causew	causeway
cbtnkr, cabt mkr	cabinet maker
census	a count of the population, usually includes various statistics about the population.
centenarian	someone who lives to be 100 years old.
ch, Ch	church

chain	a measuring device traditionally used by a land surveyor to measure the size of a property. A chain is 66 feet.
chain migrant	a person joining family members who have already migrated.
chainman	a surveyor.
chaisemaker	a maker of horse carriages.
Chals	Charles
chanceling	a notation on a parish baptism record denoting an illegitimate child.
chancery case	the term for a special legal case not specifically covered by the law of the time. Chancery cases are rich in genealogy information because they often involved land disputes, resolution of wills, divisions of estates and (in the US) buying and selling of slaves.
chandler	a person who makes and sells candles.
Chapman Codes	three letter abbreviations used to identify historic administrative counties in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
Charlt	Charlotte
Chas	Charles
chauf	chauffeur
chem	chemist
cheml	chemical
chf	chef
chiffonnier	a maker of wigs.
chimney sweep	a person (usually a child or small adult) that cleans and removes soot from chimney flues.
chkr	checker
chmbrs	chambers
chr.	christened
Chris	Christopher
Christian name	the first and middle name given to a child at birth or baptism. Also called the given name.
Chs	Charles
circuit	a group of Methodist churches run by a single minister.
citation	1) a formal reference to a source of information. 2) an official summons to appear before a court.
cite	to quote an authority.
civ	civil, civic
civ ser	civil servant
ck	creek
Clem	Clement, Clementine
Clif	Clifford
Clifd	Clifford
clk	clerk

clnr	cleaner
clothier	a person involved in the selling of cloth.
co	county
coachm	coachman
cobbler	a person who mends shoes (as opposed to a shoemaker who makes shoes). {see cordwainer}
codex (plural codices)	Latin for block of wood, it is a very old document (pre-1650) that is the precursor to a book, with separate pages bound together and given a cover. Most codices are religious documents.
codicil	a supplement to a will.
cognate	a variation of the same name in another language.
col, col'd	colored
Col.	Colonel.
col'd (abbreviation)	colored. Often found on old marriage records.
coll	college
coll, collr	collector
Coll.	College.
collier	a worker in a coal mine.
com	commission, commercial, commons
com'l	commercial
comp	compositor
compt	comptometer
cond	conductor
conf, confr	confectioner
confry	confectionary
cons	consulting
Cons	Constance
consanguineous	related by blood. For example, a consanguineous marriage is a marriage between blood relatives (the most common form being the marriage between cousins).
consideration	a payment given in return for a good or service.
Const	Constance
contr	contractor
cooper	a barrel maker.
copyhold	(England) a term that dates to the Middle Ages regarding land ownership. It is similar to freehold land except that a notional rent had to be paid to the local Manor. The Law of Property Act of 1925 converted all copyhold land to freehold land.
Cor'us	Cornelius
cordwainer	a shoemaker.
Corn	Cornelius

Corp.	Corporal.
cors, corres	correspondent
cres	crescent
ct	court
ctr, cutt	cutter
cubit	an historic measure equal to the length of a man's arm from the elbow to the fingertips. A cubit can range from 44.5 to 52.3cm (17.5 to 20.5 inches).
Cuthbt	Cuthbert

D

d.	died. , Death
Dade Register	named after Rev William Dade, vicar of several Yorkshire parishes, they are English baptism records with more information than normal such as father's occupation, mother's name and names of both grandparents.
Dan	Daniel
Danl	Daniel
dau.	daughter.
dauphin	(France) the eldest son of the king and the next in the line of succession.
Dav	David
dea	dealer
Deb	Deborah
dec, decrtr	decorator
dec.	deceased.
decendent	the deceased person.
deed	a legal transfer of title.
del	delivery
Delbt	Delbert
delctan	delicatessen
deltiology	the collecting of antique postcards.
Den	Dennis
deodand	an object or thing forfeited to the state because it had caused the death of a person. A deodand was often subsequently used for pious purposes.
dep, depy	deputy
dept	department
descendant	originating from an ancestor.
descendant chart	a chart that lists all the descendants of an individual.

devise	a clause in a will that grants real property. The devisee is the person receiving the land.
diaspora	a large scale migration or scattering of a people away from their ancestral homeland, often done by force.
dicta	dictaphone
dip	(slang) a pickpocket, from the action of placing a hand in someone's pocket.
dir	director
disp	dispenser
dispr	dispatcher
dist	district
div	division
div.	divorced.
dlr	dealer
dmnstr	demonstrator
do	short for ditto. Often found in old records, meaning the same as above.
docent	a teacher at a college or university.
dom	domestic servant (an abbreviation often seen on census returns)
Dom	Dominique
Don	Donald
Dor	Dorothy
Doug	Douglas
dowager	a widow holding property or assets from her deceased husband. Also known as a tenant in dower.
dower	the portion of a deceased husband's estate that is allotted to the wife.
dower chest	a wedding chest, also known as a hope chest.
dowry	the money or property that a woman brings to a marriage.
dowser	a person who uses a stick to find water.
dr, drs	daughter(s)
dreng	a free peasant who has land held for them in return for a service (usually military service to the local lord).
drftsmn	draftsman
drsmkr	dress maker
drug	druggist
drugst	drugstore
drv	driver
drwrs	drawers
dsp	from the Latin decissit sine prole, died without children.
Dy	Dorothy

dyer a mill worker who dies cloth.

E

e, E	east
e.s.	east side
Ea	east
Eben	Ebenezer
ec	east central
Ed	Edward, Edouard, Edmund
ed.	educated.
Edm	Edmond, Edmund
Edw	Edward
elec	electric
elec, electn	electrician
electro	electrotyper
elev, elev opr	elevator operator
elevmn	elevator man
Elis	Elisabeth
Eliz	Elizabeth
Eliza	Elizabeth
Elizh	Elizabeth
Elizth	Elizabeth
Elnr	Eleanor
Em	Emmanuel, Emma, Emily
embr	embroider
Eml	Emily
emp	employee
eng	engineer
engr, engrav	engraver
Ens.	Ensign (navy).
Ern	Ernest, Ernestine
esq	esquire
est	estate
Esth	Esther
Etne	Etienne
Euc	Euclide
Eug	Eugene, Eugenie
Eugne	Eugene
Eur.	European.
Eus	Eustace

ex, exch	exchange
exact	(England) the term used to describe the process of taking money and possessions from a person usually before the person was outlawed for a serious crime.
exam	examiner
exec	executive
executor	the person responsible for carrying out the terms of a will.
exp, expmn	expressman
Ezek	Ezekiel

F

f	freeholder
F S	female servant
f.	female
factor agent	(Scotland) a bailiff of an estate.
farrier	a person who shoes horses.
fcty	factory
Fel	Felicite
fell monger	a person who removes hair from a hide in preparation for leather making.
feme covert	a married woman.
feme sole	a single woman.
Ferd	Ferdinand
Fern	Fernand, Fernande
film opr	projectionist
fin	finisher
firmn	fireman
fl	floor
fl.	from the Latin floreat, means an approximate date (used in the absence of a precise date).
fletcher	a person who makes arrows.
flgmn	flagman
Flo	Florence
Flor	Florence
fnshr	finisher
for	forest
for	forester
formn	foreman
forwm	forewoman
foundling	an abandoned child with unknown parents. Foundlings were typically left at a safe location, such as a church.

Fra	Francis (male)
Fran	Frances (female)
Fred	Frederick, Frédéric
Fredk	Frederick
freebooter	a pirate.
freehold	in absolute possession of the land.
Frs	Francis (male), Frances (female), François, Françoise
Frs. X	François-Xavier
frt	freight
fs	female servant (an abbreviation often seen on census returns).
Fs	Francis (male)
fshrmn	fisherman
ft.	foot.
fttr	fitter
fuller	a worker in a wool linen mill who moistens and presses cloth to make it more full.
fur	furrier
fur.	furlough (often seen in military records).
furn	furniture, furnace
furng	furnishing
furrier	a maker of furs.
fwk	framework knitter (an abbreviation often seen on census returns).

G

Gab	Gabrielle
galligaskin	baggy trousers worn by sailors in the 17th and 18th century, often used to refer to sailors themselves.
ganger	(England) the foreman of a gang of workers.
gaoler	a jailer or a person who managed the jail.
gasftr	gasfitter
gaz.	gazette.
gdnr, gardnr	gardener
gdns	gardens
gds	goods
Gen	Genevieve
gen, genl	general
Geo	George, Georges, Georgette, Georgina, Georgiana
Geof	Geoffrey
Ger	Gerald, Geraldine, Gerard
Germ	Germaine

Gert	Gertrude
Gilbt	Gilbert
given name	the first and middle name given to a child at birth or baptism. Also called the Christian name.
glazer	a person who cuts and fits window glass.
Gnr.	gunner.
Godf	Godfrey
goodman	the male head of a family.
governess	a nanny and teacher of small children.
govt	government
gr fl	ground floor
grange	a farmhouse belonging to a church.
grantee	the person receiving a property either through a gift or purchase.
grantor	the person giving a property either by a gift or through a sale.
grave	similar to a reeve, the lead administrative official in a small community.
Graz	Graziella
greensmith	a metalworker who works with copper. The name comes from the fact copper sulphidizes or turns green in the presence of small quantities of sulphur in the air (due to various industrial processes, such as the burning of coal, which was common during the Industrial Revolution). [Note: it is often mistakenly thought that copper turns green due to oxygen, which is not true. If there is no sulphur in the air, copper oxidizes by turning a dark brown]
Grif	Griffith
gro, groc	grocer
gt	great
Gul	William (in Latin Gulielmus)
Guliel	William (in Latin Gulielmus)
Gwen	Gwendolyn

H

h	house, householder (owns the house)
h.a.	horse artillery.
h.p.	half pay (sometimes found in military records).
h.q.	headquarters.
haberdasher	a dealer of men's clothing.
hacker	a maker of farm hoes.
hairdrsr	hairdresser
half-timer	a child who worked half a day in a factory and attended school for half a day.

Han	Hannah
handfasting	an informal folk practice in England and British colonies that was generally a form of common-law marriage. Sometimes called a broomstick wedding or mop wedding.
Har	Harold
hausfrau	(German) housewife.
haymonger	a dealer in hay.
hd	hand
hdqtrs	headquarters
hdw	hardware
Hel	Helen, Hellene
Hen	Henry
Henr	Henriette
Hep	Hephzibah
Herb	Herbert
Herbt	Herbert
Hest	Hester
heth	heath
hide	an Anglo-Saxon measure for a unit of land. A hide was enough land to sustain one family. It varied in size depending on the quality of the soil, but was generally 15 to 30 acres.
hillier	a roof tiler.
hind	a farm worker.
hlpr	helper
hngr	hangar
ho	house
homesteader	(US) a settler who was granted freehold title to undeveloped land outside the original 13 US colonies.
Hon	Honour
hon.	honourable.
hooper	a person who makes metal hoops for barrels and casks.
hope chest	a wedding chest, also known as a dower chest.
hosier	a maker of stockings.
hosp	hospital
hostler	a person who took care of horses at an inn.
hsekpr	housekeeper
htlkpr	hotel keeper
Hub	Hubert
Hubt	Hubert
hugger	a quarry worker who carries stones.

hulk	the term used for a prison ship during Victorian England times. Hulks were often decommissioned warships retrofitted with prison cells.
Hum	Humphrey
Humy	Humphrey
hundred	an administrative subdivision that existed in southern English counties prior to the 1974 government reorganization of the counties (see also wapentake). It was the amount of land required to sustain 100 families and would normally be 1500 to 3000 acres.
Hy	Henry

I

ibid	the same. The term is used to identify a document that has already been referenced.
IGI	International Genealogical Index. A database of genealogical records maintained by the Mormon Church used to track temple ordinances for the deceased.
illeg.	illegitimate.
imp	import
imp, imptr	importer
implts	implements
imps	implants
imptr	importer
inc	incorporated
inclosure	(England) the process of dividing up common land into strips.
incomer	an immigrant.
ind, indep	independent, of indepedent means (an abbreviation often seen on census returns).
Ind.	Indian.
indentured servant	a person bound by indentures (contract) to a term of servitude.
indiaman	a British sailor who engaged in trade with India or the East Indies.
Inf.	infantry.
ins	insurance
insp, inspr, insptr	inspector
inst	instrument
inst, instr	instructor
inst.	the current month. Often seen in old letters, such as "We received your letter on the 18th inst."
intestate	a person who dies without making a valid will.
intr	interpreter
inv.	invalid.
loh	John (in Latin)

Ir	Irene
ironm	iron maker
ironmon	ironmonger
ironmonger	a dealer in iron goods and other hardware.
irreg.	irregular.
Isab	Isabel, Isabelle
Isb	Isabel, Isabelle
issue	a person's children or offspring.
itinerant	a person who performs their trade by travelling from place to place e.g. itinerant cobbler.

J

j	journeyman (an abbreviation often seen on census returns).
J. Bte	Jean-Baptiste
J.P.	Justice of the Peace.
Ja	James
Jabus	James (in Latin Jacobus)
Jac	James (in Latin Jacobus)
jack	a sailor.
Jacq	Jacques, Jacquelline
jagger	1) a fish peddler 2) a person in charge of "jags" or truck trains in a coal mine.
jan, jntr	janitor
Jas	James
jct	junction
Jean	Jean, Jeannette
Jer	Jeremiah
Jere	Jeremiah
Jerh	Jeremiah
Jermh	Jeremiah
jn	journeyman
Jn	John, Jean
Jne	Jeanne
Jno	John
Jnthn	Jonathan
joiner	a carpenter who makes furniture.
Jon	Jonathan
Jone	Joan (sometimes misspelt)
Jos	Joseph, Joséphat
Josh	Joshua, Josiah
JP	Justice of the Peace.

jr, jun	junior
Jro	Jerome
Jsph	Joseph
Jud	Judith
Jul	Julian, Juliette
Junker	(German) a member of the Prussian aristocracy.
jwlr	jeweller or watchmaker

K

Kath	Katherine
keeler	a bargeman.
kempster	a person who combed wool in a linen factory.
Ken	Kenneth
kith	friends and acquaintances.
kpr	keeper

L

l	lives
la	lane
lab	labourer
Lady Day	(England) the first day of the New Year, which until 1752 was March 25th. Lady Day was close to the first day of spring, or the Spring Equinox. {see also Michaelmas}.
lamebegot	a notation on a parish baptism record denoting an illegitimate child.
Lan	Lancelot
lardner	a keeper of stored food.
Lau	Laurence
lavender	a woman who washes clothes.
Lawr	Lawrence
lbr	lumber
ldg	lodging
lederer	(German) a leather maker.
Len	Leonard
Leo	Leopold
Leon	Leonard
Let	Letitia, Lettice
letter patent	an open letter issued by a government granting certain rights to a person such as an official title, a government office or land.
lieut	lieutenant
lime burner	a person who makes lime by burning limestone.

linmn	lineman
lino	linotype
lith, litho	lithographer
Indrs	laundress
Indy	laundry
Indymn	laundryman
Ingshmn	longshoreman
lormer	a maker of horse gear and tackle.
Ls	Louis
Lse	Louise
ltd, Ltd	Limited
Luc	Lucian, Lucien, Lucienne
Lyd	Lydia

M

m	date of marriage. m2 would indicate date of second marriage.
M S	male servant
m.	male
m.	married
M.D.	medical doctor.
m.i.	memorial inscription.
ma, mak	maker
mach	machine, machinist
Mad	Madeleine
maks	makers
malefactor	a criminal.
maltster	a brewer who makes malt for beer.
manciple	a medieval steward in charge of food.
mang	managing
manuf, mfr	manufacturer
Marc	Marcelline
Marg	Margaret, Marguerite
Margt	Margaret
Margy	Margery
Marm	Marmaduke
Mart	Martha
mason	a person who builds with brick or stone.
Mat	Matthias, Mathias, Matthew, Mathieu
Math	Mathias, Mathilde
Mathw	Mathew

matrilocality	the custom in some ethnic and social groups where a couple settles in the woman's home or community after marriage. {see also patrilocality}
matross	an artillery officer one rank below a gunner.
Matt	Mathew
Mau	Maurice
mdse	merchandise
mech	mechanic, mechanical
mender	a person who inspects and repairs defects in woven cloth.
mer	merchant
mer, mt, mercht	merchant
merrybegot	a notation on a parish baptism record denoting an illegitimate child.
messr, msngr	messenger
messuage	a house plus associated outbuildings and yard mentioned in a will.
mfg	manufacturing
mfr	manufacturer
mgr, mngr	manager
Mgt	Margaret
Mic	Michael
Mich	Michael, Miche
Michaelmas	(England) September 29th, close to the first day of fall, or the Fall Equinox. {see also Lady Day}
Michl	Michael
midshipman	a navel officer in training.
milkmaid	a woman who milks cows.
Mill	Millicent
Miracode	also known as American Soundex, it is a slight variation on Russell Soundex. See the article What is Soundex and How Does Soundex Work for a complete description.
miscellany	a collective mixture of writings on various subjects usually contained in one book. Miscellanies were popular in the 1400 - 1800s when paper was very expensive and often predate diaries for families as a form of recording everything from recipes to poems to scripture to day-day activities.
mkr	maker
mkt	market
mkt gdnr	market gardener
mldr	moulder
mlnr	milliner
mlwrt	millwright
mn	man

mng dir	managing director
mntr	mounter
mono	monotype
moto, mtrmn	motorman
mrnr	mariner
ms	male servant (an abbreviation often seen on census returns)
msngr	messenger
mstr	master
mtrmn	motorman
mus	musician
mus tchr	music teacher
mut	mutual
My	Mary

N

n, N	north
n, nr	near
n.e.	northeast
n.s.	north side
n.w.	northwest
Nap	Napoleon
Nar	Narcisse
Nath	Nathaniel
Nathl	Nathaniel
natl	national
navvy	(England) a labourer who builds roads and canals.
Naz	Nazaire
nc	north central
nd	no date. Used to indicate that a document has no date.
née	identifies a woman's maiden name, from the French word for born.
Neh	Nehemiah
new date	a date recorded using the Gregorian Calendar, it was often written in old records and documents in the abbreviated form of n.d. See article for more details. {see also old date}
nibling	a niece or nephew. The word is equivalent to the more common word sibling.
Nic	Nicholas, Nicole
Nich	Nicholas
Nicho	Nicholas
Nichs	Nicholas
nk	not know (an abbreviation often seen on census returns).

none	midafternoon prayer (Ninth Hour = approximately 3 p.m)
Ns	Nicholas
nuncupative will	an oral will given by a dying person in front of witnesses.

O

ob.	deceased, from the Latin obit.
oblate	devoted to a monastic life. In reference to children, it means that the parents devoted the child to a monastic life. Parents who could not look after their children sometimes did this instead of turning children over to orphanages or poorhouses.
Oct	Octave
off	office
Ol	Oliver, Olivier
old date	a date recorded using the Julian Calendar, it was often written in old records and documents in the abbreviated form of o.d. See article for more details. {see also new date}
onomastics	{also known as onomatology} the study of the forms and origins of names.
op, opp	opposite
op, opr	operator
optom	optometrist
osteo	osteopath
otp	of this parish.

P

p.o.	post office
palimpsest	pieces of parchment that were reused by washing off the original text and then rewriting new text. The practise was common in the Middle Ages.
Pama	Pamelia
paperhngr	paperhanger
parvenu	a person with an obscure origin who has gained wealth, celebrity or influence.
pass	passenger
pat	patient
Pat	Patrick, Patrice, Patricia
patent	the first title deed to a property, usually granted by a government.
Patk	Patrick
patrilocality	the custom in some ethnic and social groups where a couple settles in the man's home or community after marriage. {see also matrilocality}

pdlr	peddler
pen	pensioner
Pen	Penelope
pens.	pensioner.
perch	A unit of area used in Anglo-Saxon countries. A perch equalled to an area of 16.25 feet by 16.25 feet. A total of 160 perches equalled one acre. A total of 40 perches equalled one rood. See also rood.
peruker	a wig maker.
Pet	Peter
petty session	(England) a lower court that tried minor cases. Petty sessions were replaced in 1972 by Magistrate courts.
ph	penthouse
Ph	Phillip, Philippe
pharm	pharmacist
Phil	Phillip, Philippe
Phin	Phineas
photo, photog, photogr	photographer
phy, phys	physician
Phyl	Phyllis
pk	park
pkr	packer
pkwy	parkway
pl	place
plmbr	plumber
plshr	polisher
plstr	plasterer
plte	plate
pntr	painter
police	policeman
posthumous	after death. Sometimes children are referred to as posthumous, which means the child was born after the father's death.
Pre	Pierre
pres	president
prin, princ	principal
Prisc	Priscilla
probate	a copy of a legally valid will, usually held by a regional court.
prod	produce, product
prof	professor
proj	projectionist
prop	proprietor
propr	proprietor (owner)

Prosopography	a study of the collective characteristics of an historic group based on an examination of the individuals within the group.
prov	province
prov	provisions
proximo	used to refer to a date in the following month, from the Latin for 'next'.
prsfdr	pressfeeder
prsmn	pressman
prtr, prntr	printer
Pru	Prudence
pt	point
Pte.	Private (military rank).
ptrnmkr	patternmaker
pub	publishing
public house	a premise licensed to sell alcohol.
publr	publisher
puddler	a wrought iron worker.
pugilist	a professional boxer.
purch	purchasing
pyeman	a person who makes and sells pies.

Q

quarrier	a quarry worker.
----------	------------------

R

r	roomer or resides (renter)
r, rr	rear
R.C.	Roman Catholic
R.N.	Royal Navy.
Rach	Rachel
rail	railway
Ray	Raymond
Rayd	Raymond
rd	road
real est	real estate
Reb	Rebecca
Reba	Rebecca
redact	edited for publication, typically used where certain sensitive information is blacked out so it can not be read (in genealogy it is

commonly used on birth certificates of adoptees to mask the identity of biological parents).

redsmith	a jewellery maker who works with gold alloyed with copper.
reeve	the chief administrator of a small community. {see also grave}
ref	refiner
refrig	refrigeration
reg	registered, registrar
Reg	Reginald
regd	registered
Regd	Reginald
regnal year	commonly seen on wills prior to 1837, it marks time by when a particular monarch assumed the throne. For example, "the 23rd day of September in the 5th year of the reign of our Gracious Queen Anne". To figure out the calendar year, simply consult an online source to determine when a particular monarch began their reign.
rel est	real estate
relict	the surviving spouse in a marriage.
relieving officer	(England) the officer in charge of a workhouse for the poor.
rep	representative
repr, rpr	repairer
res	residence, resides
rest, restr	restaurant
ret	retail, retired
ret	retail
ret'd.	retired.
Rev	Reverend
Ric	Richard
Rich	Richard
Richd	Richard
Richdus	Richardus (Richard in Latin)
riding	an administrative division of Yorkshire, from the old Danish word 'thriding' meaning a third part. Yorkshire was divided into North Riding, West Riding and East Riding.
rm	room
rms	rooms (renter)
Robt	Robert
rod	a unit of length used in Anglo-Saxon countries. A rod was 16.25 feet. Four rods made a chain of 66 feet. A square rod (16.25 feet by 16.25 feet) was known as a perch. See also rood.
Rodk	Roderick

Rog	Roger
Rol	Roland
Ron	Ronald
rood	an Anglo-Saxon measure of area. A rood is 1/4 acre. In old documents such as wills, 'rood' is often (mis)spelt as 'rod'. See also rod.
Rowl	Rowland
Rph	Ralph
RR	rural route
rw	row
Ry	railway

S

s of	son of.
s, S	south
s.e.	southeast or side entrance
s.s.	south side
s.w.	southwest
saddler	a person who makes horse saddles and related equipment for a horse.
Sam	Samuel
Saml	Samuel
sampler	a piece of embroidery used to showcase the needlework skills of an individual. It often included the name and date of the person who sewed the piece.
san	sanitary
Sanborn map	first created by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company in the US in the 1800s. These detailed maps enabled insurance companies to determine the risk of fire to buildings based on the building size, shape, function and structural material (see image below). Sanborn maps are particularly valuable to genealogists because they show specific details on individual buildings as well as showing how buildings relate to one another and how neighbourhoods are constructed. They are an excellent source for identifying how neighbourhoods, towns and cities have evolved over decades. Note: the term Sanborn map is only used in the United States. Similar maps exist in other countries and are usually called fire insurance maps.
Sar	Sarah
sawyer	a person who works in a sawmill.
sc	south central
scapebegot	a notation on a parish baptism record denoting an illegitimate child.
sch	school

schepen	(Dutch) an alderman or town councillor.
schumacker	(Dutch) a shoemaker.
sck	sack
scrivener	a person who makes written copies of a document.
sdlr	saddler or harness maker
sea	seaman
sec	secretary
sec hd	second hand
selion	a small patch of land owned by a religious house that was rented to a peasant farmer.
sen	senior
sext	midday prayer.
sexton	a church, congregation or synagogue officer charged with the maintenance of a graveyard and associated buildings.
sgt, sergt	sergeant
sharecropper	a tenant farmer who gives a share of the crop to the landlord in lieu of rent.
ship	shipping
shpr	shipper
sic	usually found within a quote, it usually indicates an unusual spelling, phrase or fact that may be incorrect.
Sid	Sidney
side	side entrance
silv	silver
Silv	Sylvester
Sim	Simon
slater	a tradesman who covers buildings with slate.
sls	sales
slsldy	saleslady
slsmn	salesman
smltr	smelter
smstrs	seamstress
soc	society
Sol	Solomon
sol. (abbreviation)	an attorney or solicitor.
solr	solicitor
Soundex	a filing system used in old US censuses where the family name was filed by the sound it made. It was used to cross-reference similar sounding names such as Smith and Smythe.
spec	special
sq	square

st	store
sta	stable
sta	stationary
sta, stn	station
Stan	Stanley
statnr	stationeer
sten, steno, stenog	stenographer
Steph	Stephen
stereo	stereotype
stlwkr	steelworker
stmftr	steamfitter
str	steamer
strumpet	a prostitute.
stud, studt	student
stvdre	stevedore
sum res	summer residence
sup, supt, suput	superintendent
supputation	the act of calculating or estimating.
supvr, supvsr	supervisor
surg	surgeon
Sus	Susan, Susanna
Susna	Susanna, Susannah
Suz	Suzanne
swchmn, switch	switchman
Syd	Sydney

T

t	tenant
Tam	Thomasin, Tamsin
tanner	a worker who cures animal hides into leather.
taphophilia	a love of funerals, graves and cemeteries.
tapster	a bartender.
tatter	a person who makes handmade lace.
tav	tavern
tchr	teacher
tel	telephone
teleg	telegraph
Teles	Telesphore
tenter	a person who stretched cloth on a machine while it dries.
ter	terrace

testament	written instructions in a will as to the disposition of property and the body of the deceased.
testator	the person who made the will.
textor	a weaver.
Thegn	(England) an official one step below an Earl.
Theo	Theodore
Ther	Therese
Tho	Thomas
Thos	Thomas
Ths	Thomas
Tim	Timothy
tinner	tinsmith
tinsmith	a metalworker who fabricates items made of tin.
tithing	(England) a group of ten households liable for paying fees to support the local parish church.
tlr	tailor
tlrs	tailoress
tmkpr	timekeeper
tmstr	teamster
tn	town
tndr	tender
tob	tobacco
Tous	Toussaint
tp	township
tran, trans	transportation
trans	transportation
trans	transfer
transf	transfer
trav	travelling, traveller
treas	treasurer
Tristm	Tristram
Tutor	guardian of an underaged person.

U

u.	unknown
undtkr	undertaker
unm.	unmarried.
Up	upper
uphol, upholstr	upholsterer
Urs	Ursula

V

V.C.	Victoria Cross. The highest decoration for gallantry.
Val	Valentine
var	variety
vet	veterinarian
Vic	Victor
victualler	the keeper of a restaurant, tavern or inn who supplied food and provisions to the British army or navy.
Vinc	Vincent
Virg	Virginia
virgate	an Anglo-Saxon measure for a unit of land. A virgate was one quarter of the land required to sustain one family (known as a hide). It varied in size depending on the quality of the soil, but was up to 7 acres. {see also hide}
vis	visitor
vital record	a document issued by a government that provides proof of a major life event. The most common vital records are for birth, marriage and death.
vulc	vulcanizer

W

w, W	west
w.s.	west side
wa, wareh, wareho	warehouse
wainwright	a wagon maker.
waive	(England) the process of removing a woman from the protection of the law.
Walt	Walther
wapentake	an administrative subdivision of northern English counties (primarily Yorkshire) prior to the 1974 government reorganization of the counties. The word is Danish in origin and was used primarily in regions of England historically controlled by the Norse. Also known as a hundred, it was the amount of land required to sustain 100 families. {see also hundred}
ware	warehouse
wc	west central
wd wkr	wood worker
wf, whf	wharf
wheelwright	a maker and repairer of wheels for wagons.
whitesmith	another name for a tinsmith, or someone who works with tin. Tin is a white metal.

who, whol	wholesale
whol	wholesale
whsmn	warehouseman
wid.	widow.
widr.	widower.
Wilf	Wilfred, Wilfrid
Wilfd	Wilfred
winder	a person working in a textile mill who winds yarn onto spindles or bobbins.
wkr	worker
wks	works
wldr	welder
wlk	walk
Wm	William
wmn	woman
writ	a written order issued by a court.
wtchmn	watchman
wtr	waiter
wtrs	waitress

X

Xpher	Christopher (in Latin)
Xpr	Christopher (in Latin)
Xtianus	Christian (in Latin)
Xtopherus	Christopher (in Latin)

Y

yardman	a railway worker.
yd	yard
ydmn	yardman
ydmstr	yardmaster
yeoman	a farmer who owns their own small piece of land.

Z

Zach	Zachariah
------	-----------

Genealogical Symbols and their Meaning

Symbol

±

~, ~~, ≈

*

(*), ⊗, *○

□, [], ▢, ■

>

<

Y

Ø

+, †

X, ✕

+X, †✕

++, ††, ‡

+*, †*

*+, *†

♀

♂

o/o, %, o|o, ÷

o

I oo, II oo

oo, ∞, ∞, &

X, XX

o o

o-o

!!

○

Meaning

Approximately

Baptized

Born or Birth

Born out of wedlock/illegitimate

Buried

Comes after

Comes before

Communion

Cremation

Died

Died--in battle

Died--in battle from wounds

Died--no further family / line extinct

Died--stillborn

Died--shortley after birth

female

male

Marital status--divorced

Marital status--engaged

Marital status--first or second

Marital status--married

Marital status--married (South Africa, first or second marriage)

Marital status--married, but separated

Marital status--unmarried, common law or illegitimate

Reverend, Pastor

unknown

Metric & Imperial Unit Conversions

Length

Unit	Relative to previous	Feet	Millimetres	Metres
thou (th)		$\frac{1}{12000}$	0.0254	0.0000254
inch (in)	1000 thou	$\frac{1}{12}$	25.4	0.0254
foot (ft)	12 inches	1	304.8	0.3048
yard (yd)	3 feet	3	914.4	0.9144
chain (ch)	22 yards	66	20116.8	20.1168
furlong (fur)	10 chains	660		201.168
mile (mi)	8 furlongs	5280		1609.344
league (lea)	3 miles	15840		4828.032
fathom (ftm)	2.02667 yards	6.08	1853.184	1.853184
cable	100 fathoms	608		185.3184
nautical mile	10 cables	6080		1853.184
link	7.92 inches	$\frac{66}{100}$	201.168	0.201168
rod	25 links	$\frac{66}{4}$	5029.2	5.0292

Area

Unit	Relation to units of length	Square feet	Square rods	Square miles	Square metres	Hectares
perch	1 rod × 1 rod	272.25	1	$\frac{1}{102400}$	25.29285264	0.002529
rood	1 furlong × 1 rod[16]	10890	40	$\frac{1}{2560}$	1011.7141056	0.1012
acre	1 furlong × 1 chain	43560	160	$\frac{1}{640}$	4046.8564224	0.4047

Volume

Unit	Imperial ounces	Imperial pints	Millilitres	Cubic inches	US ounces	US pints
fluid ounce (fl oz)	1	$\frac{1}{20}$	28.4130625	1.7339	0.96076	0.060047
gill (gi)	5	$\frac{1}{4}$	142.0653125	8.6694	4.8038	0.30024
pint (pt)	20	1	568.26125	34.677	19.215	1.2009
quart (qt)	40	2	1136.5225	69.355	38.430	2.4019
gallon (gal)	160	8	4546.09	277.42	153.72	9.6076

Legal measures from 1826–1870

Liquid	Dry	Capacity in ³
1/2 Gill		4.3
Gill	1/4 Pint	8.7
1/2 Pint	1/2 Pint	17.4
Pint	Pint	34.7
Quart	Quart	69.4
1/2 Gallon	1/4 Peck or 1/2 Gallon	138.7
Gallon	1/2 Peck or Gallon	277.4
2 Gallons (Peck)	Peck	554.8
4 Gallons (1/2 Bushel)	1/2 Bushel	1109.7
	Bushel	2219.4

Table of British apothecaries' volume units

Unit	Symbols & abbreviations	Relative to previous	Exact metric value
minim	\mathfrak{M} , \mathfrak{m} , , m, m., min		59.1938802083 μl
fluid scruple	fl \mathfrak{S} , fl s	20 minims	1.18387760416 ml
fluid drachm (fluid dram, fluidram)	\mathfrak{z} , fl \mathfrak{z} , f \mathfrak{z} , f \mathfrak{z} , fl dr	3 fluid scruples	3.5516328125 ml
fluid ounce	\mathfrak{Z} , fl \mathfrak{Z} , f \mathfrak{Z} , f \mathfrak{Z} , fl oz	8 fluid drachms	28.4130625 ml
pint	O, pt	20 fluid ounces	568.26125 ml
gallon	C, gal	8 pints	4.54609 l

Table of mass units

Unit	Pounds	Grams	Kilograms
grain (gr)	$\frac{1}{7000}$	0.06479891	
drachm (dr)	$\frac{1}{256}$	1.7718451953125	
ounce (oz)	$\frac{1}{16}$	28.349523125	
pound (lb)	1	453.59237	0.45359237
stone (st)	14	6350.29318	6.35029318
quarter (qr or qtr)	28		12.70058636
hundredweight (cwt)	112		50.80234544
ton (t)	2240		1016.0469088

